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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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Honorable Charles Rose  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Evaluation  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter of 17 September, and please excuse the delay in replying to it. I welcome the Committee's continuing interest in the National Warning System.

It has taken longer to reorganize the Strategic Warning Staff than we had originally anticipated, but I share your confidence that under its new charter and Director, we can bring it into the mainstream of the Intelligence Community's work. As a recent example, the Staff served as an intelligence prod during the period building up to our Alert Memorandum on Soviet Options in Afghanistan. (A copy of its 14 September report to the NIO/Warning is enclosed for your information.) While the Community took the cautious, conservative position, the SWS served as a daily reminder that other conclusions could be drawn from the same information, and thus provided invaluable support to the NIO/Warning. As to restaffing, Frank Carlucci held a meeting of his warning subcommittee following the 25 September NFIB meeting at which he requested personnel support at the highest priority. We should begin to see the results of his request soon.

We, too, regret the loss of [redacted]  
General Tighe assures me, however, that progress on the DoD Indications and Warning System upgrade will not be affected. In fact, the second DoD I&W System working level conference was held at DIA on 9 and 10 October.

The problem of performance evaluation for the Community continues to concern me, and I have asked Frank Carlucci to examine our present posture and make recommendations.

As to I&W expenditures, we have made informal arrangements whereby [redacted] Resource Management Staff will solicit comments from the NIO/Warning on those budgetary issues having a strategic warning impact.

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In short, we and the Committee have the same goals. As we press ahead, I welcome the Committee's suggestions. Our cooperative approach in this critical area seems to me a model for Congressional-Executive relations.

Sincerely,



STANSFIELD TURNER

Enclosure



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